from Indian Airlines and the remaining 249 have been appointed from the open market on contract basis.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Steel Production in the Country

4076. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rate of steel production in the country is far less as compared to the international level;

(b) if so, the international and domestic rate of steel production, respectively; and

(c) the likely rate of steel production, both international and domestic by the end of Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c). As per the report "The Steel Market in 1995 and the outlook for 1996 and 1997" published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in 1996, 747.8 million tonnes of crude steel was produced in the world in 1995. India, with the production of 21.942 million tonnes of crude steel in 1995-96, is the tenth largest producer of steel in the world. As per the projections made for 2001-02 AD, terminal year of the ninth plan, it has been estimated that about 43.26 million tonnes of crude steel would be produced indigenously in the country.

[Translation]

Doubling of Railway Line

4077. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct double line between Muradnagar and Meerut;

(b) if so, whether the funds have been allocated for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for non-commencement of work so far, despite the allocation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Rs. 4.50 crores have been allocated during 1996-97.

(d) The work was earlier planned under BOLT Scheme. However due to unsatisfactory response to that Scheme it was decided to take up this work with Railway funds. This resulted in some delay. However the Railway is making preliminary arrangements for taking up the work.

[English]

Lignite Reserve

4078. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of mines which have possibility of commercial mining of lignite in the country;

(b) the estimated reserves of lignite in these mines, State-wise; and

(c) the details of such reserves, reserved for power generation?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The total number of mines which have possibility of commercial mining of lignite in the country are 16 (Tamilnadu-5, Rajasthan-7, Gujarat-4).

(b) Estimated reserves of lignite in these mines, state-wise are :

State	Estimated Reserves (in M.T.)
Tamilnadu	3244.00
Rajasthan	807.08
Gujarat	664.56

(c) Most of the lignite reserves indicated above though not specifically reserved, can be utilised for power generation.

Development of Historical Sites

4079. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have any plan for the development of important historical and religious sites for tourism in Bihar;

(b) if so, the places identified for the development of tourism;

(c) whether the Jaimangalagarh in Begusarai district, which is an important historical and religious place of north Bihar and where birds visit from Siberia and other remote regions would also be included in this plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b). Development of important historical and